

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

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TAGS: UNDP

SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEM 13

- UN FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (FUND)

(6/26/78 - P.M.)

1. SUMMARY: AA ANSTEE REPORTED ON PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT ON FUND ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES. FUND AIMS AT BOTH FINANCING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES WHICH RELATE TO HIGH TRANSIT COSTS AND TO IMPROVING TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS. JACK STONE, FORMER AID OFFICER, NOW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FUND, ADDED THAT TWO STUDIES WERE NOW UNDERWAY IN ASIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE TRANSIT-TRANSPORT SYSTEMS. FUTURE STUDIES WILL INCLUDE SUBREGIONS OF EAST AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. TOTAL CURRENT FUNDING OF \$670,000 PROVIDES SEED MONEY FOR STUDIES WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL ATTRACT PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORT PROJECTS. UNDP ADMINISTRATOR WILL CALL PLEDGING CONFERENCE OF DONORS SOMETIME BEFORE NEXT GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) MEETING. STATEMENTS GENERALLY IN SUPPORT OF FUND WERE MADE BY BURUNDI, UNCLASSIFIED

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SIERRA LEONE, SENEGAL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SPAIN, BRAZIL AND IRAN. DEBATE WAS LOW KEY AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL. END SUMMARY.

2. AA ANSTEE OPENED DISCUSSION BY POINTING OUT THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS FREQUENTLY ADDRESSED IN GA, UNCTAD AND ECOSOC. SHE STATED THAT FUND HAD REACHED OPERATIONAL

STAGE THANKS TO PLEDGES IN 1977 BY 13 COUNTRIES WHICH AT TIME OF ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (DATED APRIL, 1978) AMOUNTED TO \$670,000. TWO TYPES OF ACTIVITY ARE PLANNED DURING INITIAL PHASE:
(A) ACTIVITIES INVOLVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS AIMED AT REDUCING TRANSIT AND RELATED TRANSPORT COSTS PECULIAR TO LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (LLDCS); AND

(B) FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES DESIGNED TO CHART WAYS OF IMPROVING TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR LLDCS. ANSTEE SUGGESTED THAT FUND USE UNDP PROCEDURES FOR PROJECT APPROVAL UNTIL IT COULD FORMULATE ITS OWN PROCEDURES. SHE ADDED THAT ADMINISTRATOR WILL PROPOSE SECOND PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR FUND AND URGED UNDP MEMBERS TO FOLLOW 1977 EXAMPLE.

3. JACK STONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LINKED FUND'S CREATION TO GA RESOLUTION IN DECEMBER, 1975. HE POINTED OUT THAT 15 OF 19 LLDCS WERE ALSO AMONG LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AN INTEGRATED PLANNING APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF LLDCS IS BASED ON STUDY ENTITLED "A TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." STONE STATED UNCTAD AND UNDP HAD INITIATED TWO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR LLDCS -- ONE IN ASIA AND ONE IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN SUBREGION WITH PLANS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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STUDIES IN AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN SUBREGIONS.

4. BURUNDI, SIERRA LEONE AND SENEGAL STRONGLY SUPPORTED FUND'S OBJECTIVES. SIERRA LEONE EMPHASIZED THAT NO-ESCAPE-ROUTE PSYCHOLOGY EFFECTING MOST LLDCS LED (INTER ALIA) TO POLEMICAL POSTURE TAKEN BY SOME. BURUNDI EXPLAINED THAT FIVE PERCENT OF ITS BUDGET MUST BE ALLOTTED TO OVERCOME EXTRA FUEL COSTS INCIDENT TO BEING LAND-LOCKED. SENEGAL WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF MEASURES TO HELP LLDCS OVERCOME THEIR DISADVANTAGE. CZECHOSLOVAKIA OFFERED TO SHARE ITS EXPERIENCE WITH DEVELOPING LLDCS IN GRAPPLING WITH PROBLEM. SPAIN AND BRAZIL MENTIONED THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT TO LLDCS IN SOUTH AMERICA, I.E. BOLIVIA AND PARAGUAY. IRAN QUESTIONED USE OF AFGHANISTAN PROJECT IN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT AS ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE BECAUSE IT DID NOT SEEM TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF RECENT IRAN-AFGHAN AGREEMENT TO EASE AFGHANISTAN'S HIGH TRANSIT COSTS. TO THIS OBJECTION, ANSTEE REPLIED THAT PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY NEW AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT WHICH APPEARED TO SATISFY IRAN REPRESENTATIVE.

5. DRAFT DECISION ON FUND FOR LLDCS CIRCULATED AND WILL BE VOTED 6/27/78. MAIN ELEMENTS ARE (A) AUTHORIZES ADMINISTRATOR/UNDP TO APPROVE ASSISTANCE REQUESTS TO FUND IN CONSULTATION WITH UNCTAD; (B) ENDORSES PROPOSAL TO CONVENE PLEDGING SESSION; AND (C) REQUESTS ADMINISTRATOR TO REPORT TO COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT SESSION.

6. COMMENT: DISCUSSION WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY. USDEL EXPECTS TO JOIN CONSENSUS ON DRAFT DECISION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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